



Wisconsin Wildlife Damage

August

A Newsletter for Wildlife Damage Program Cooperators

2004

Status of the WDACP

Prior to the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin, the WDACP fund had a balance of \$8.35 million. Post CWD discovery, there have been two reallocations of program funds to the fish and wildlife account totaling \$3.335 million. After calendar year 2002 the WDACP fund had approximately \$4.6 million remaining. During the development of the FY03-05 state budget, the Joint Finance Committee reallocated an additional \$2.7 million from the WDACP fund to the Fish and Wildlife Account. The projected balance at the end of calendar year 2003 is approximately \$1.6 million. We have analyzed the fiscal data and we have projected 2004 program cost to be approximately \$1.3 million more than program revenues.

Several factors have contributed to the fiscal estimate. Program costs continue to increase as administration costs, enrollment, amount of damage (specifically deer damage) and commodity prices continue to rise. Additionally, program revenue is projected to decrease due to an anticipated decline in antlerless bonus permit sales. 91 of Wisconsin's 130 Deer Management Units are designated as either T-Zone, Earn-a-Buck or CWD zone and license hunters will receive one free antlerless permit.

The department is exploring several options and we anticipate that Governor Doyle and the Legislature will need to take action in the 2005-07 budget to keep the WDACP fully funded.

Deer donation 2004

According to s. 29.889(7)(d)2. Stats., WDACP funds are to be spent in the following order. 1) County administrative cost; 2) Wildlife damage abatement assistance; 3) Wildlife damage claim payments; and 4) Venison donation program. Taking in consideration the reallocation of \$6.04 million from WDACP funds, and

the popularity of the program, the WDACP will provide reimbursement to counties that offer a venison donation program in 2004. However, to maintain a cost-effective program and to reduce potential pro-ration of agricultural producers' damage claims; we are limiting the reimbursable processing cost to \$50/deer.

A venison donation program for 2005 and beyond is dependent on any action taken by Governor Doyle and the Legislature in the 2005-07 budget.

County Plan of Administration Deadline

Check your county's Plan of Administration. Many Plans expire on **December 31st**. S. 29.889 (3)(b) Wis. Stats., states "A county seeking to administer the wildlife damage abatement program or the wildlife damage abatement and wildlife damage claim programs shall apply to the department on forms provided by it on or before **November 1** for the administration of these programs in the following calendar year or other period specified in the application".

Changes to the woven wire permanent fence bid procedures

In 2003 the WDACP granted a variance to USDA-WS to build three permanent fences using a single bid for materials and installation. USDA-WS originally suggested to the WDACP, the program should require separate bids for materials and installation of permanent fences. At the time, USDA-WS predicted a cost saving to the WDACP of several thousand of dollars per fence. Since then, bids have become more competitive and administrative costs have risen. The rise in administrative cost is contributed to an increasing number of problems arising between material suppliers and installers, often from competing companies. This

calls into question, whether requiring separate bids is cost effective to the WDACP.

In 2004, USDA-WS reported to the WDACP “The average for the projects that were bid as one were \$2.92 per foot and that included one fence that was more expensive than most because it was constructed in very rugged terrain. If we take out the expensive fence the price per foot drops to \$2.64! The projects that were bid separately averaged \$2.72 per foot”. Additional administrative cost savings ranged from \$100 - \$215 per fence and undeterminable costs associated with settling problems between material suppliers and installers.

The WDACP will accept single-total project bids for construction of woven-wire permanent fences. The WDACP will continue to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of single-total project bids.

Shooting permit report for 2003

The department authorized 740 deer damage shooting permits in 2003 for a total deer harvest of 7,732 deer. 667 permits were issued for agricultural damage and 7,160 deer were harvested. Additionally, 73 permits were issued to airports, in urban areas, or within a deer-proof fence, with a known harvest of 572 deer. The damage harvest constituted 1.5% of the total deer harvest in Wisconsin. The shooting permit report for 2003 is under the “Damage Program Information” link on the Wildlife Damage Programs web page at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/>.

WDACP Program summary for 2003

The Counties reported 1022 landowners enrolled in the WDACP. The WDACP received 614 damage claims from 60 of the 70 eligible counties. Appraised damage is estimated at \$2,404,997 and the WDACP authorized payments totaling \$1,838,553 in wildlife damage. Deer damage constituted 93% of appraised losses. A full program report is located under the “Damage Program Information” link on the Wildlife Damage Program’s web page at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/>.

Who to contact if you get calls on Wolf problems?

If you get calls, or visitors with wolf problems, a contact should be made as soon possible to USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Service. USDA-Wildlife Services should especially be called if domestic animals have

been injured or killed by wolves. Wildlife Specialist with USDA-Wildlife Services will visit all sites where likely wolf depredation has occurred on domestic animals within 48 hours. These Wildlife Specialists are responsible for investigating possible wolf depredations and determine if wolves were actually responsible. Verification by USDA-Wildlife Services is required before anyone can be reimbursed for any losses caused by wolves.

USDA-Wildlife Services is also responsible for providing advice to landowners, and if wolves need to be removed, will trap or use other controls to remove problem wolves.

Landowners are not allowed to attempt to kill wolves themselves. People can be advised to try to scare off any wolves present by making noise, and to avoid disturbing the site of wolf depredations as much as possible. But callers should be referred to Wildlife Services for advice.

Wildlife Specialists from USDA-WS, will confer with the local DNR wildlife biologists, and the state wolf biologists, if wolves are responsible and need to be trapped from someone’s land.

County Damage Specialists, Wildlife Biologists, wildlife technicians, wardens, or other DNR personnel should not visit possible wolf depredation sites prior to inspections by USDA-Wildlife Services.

USDA-Wildlife Services Contact Numbers:

Northern Wisconsin, 1-800-228-1368 in Rhinelander.

Southern Wisconsin, 1-800-433-0663 in Waupun.

If you have questions on this information, call Adrian Wydeven, 715-762-4684 ext.107.

Contact information

Bryan Woodbury Phone: 608-266-2151
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(Program information)

Laurie Fike Phone: 608-267-7974
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WDACP website:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage>
